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PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

VACCINATION.

The following report has just been published by the Surgeons of the Vaccine Institution, Edinburgh :—

" In reporting to the Managers of the Vaccine Institution, the state of vaccination for 1811, the surgeons have the satisfaction to mention, as upon a former occasion, that nothing has occurred which can in any degree diminish their belief of the perfect efficacy of the cow pox as a preventative of the small pox. Since last report 619 have been vaccinated, making in all 11,727 from the commencement of the practice at the Institution in 1804. The surgeons have at various times inoculated with small-pox, a great many children, who had been vaccinated eight, nine, and ten years before, all of whom have been found to resist the infection. In no instance have they found any bad effects which could be attributed to vaccination, and upon the whole, the experience of another year serves to confirm them in their former opinion, that the practice of vaccination is deserving of the highest degree of confidence from the public."

A correspondent of the *Inverness Journal* remarks, on vaccine inoculation, that it should be an invariable rule to repeat the vaccine operation before the eleventh day is over, if the pustule is in the least degree ruffled, as, in that case, the vaccine matter, instead of being taken into the system, is carried off by the external discharge.

LINEN TRADE.

On Wednesday, 1st April, pursuant to notice, a number of the most respectable linen merchants of the city and county of Londonderry, assembled in the Town-Hall, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of petitioning his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, on the subject of the licences granted by the board of trade, allowing the importation of French and other foreign linens and cambrics.

Mr. Sheriff Kennedy briefly stated the object of the meeting.

Mr. John Alexander said, he had been in London about three years ago, when similar licences had been granted for the importation of foreign linens, and that

the measure had produced an instantaneous effect upon the market, insomuch, that those of Irish manufacture declined in price from 2d. to 3d. per yard. He said, that although the duty on foreign linens was nominally 35 per cent., yet, as the rate of exchange between Hamburg and London differed very materially, and the importer, in passing his entry, calculated the amount of his invoice at par, he actually paid only 24 or 25 per cent., which was by no means adequate to put our home manufacture on a footing with that of the continent, where labour was so much cheaper than in Ireland.

M. J. A. Smyth said, that he also had witnessed the depression which licences to import foreign linens had caused in the London market. He admitted, however, that then there was a reasonable cause for resorting to the measure. Owing to a want of the raw material, occasioned by the American embargo, which cut off our usual supply of flax-seed, Irish linens had got up to an enormous pitch, and it was feared that the supply would not be equal to the consumption. At present the case was very different—there was a large supply of flax, yarn, and linens in the country, and the latter at moderate prices, which barely paid the weaver a subsistence, and the earnings of the spinners fell far short of a support. If any thing should be done to depress the trade further, it would be ruinous to upwards of a million of people, whom, he computed, derived their support from the linen manufacture. He would, therefore, recommend a petition to the Prince Regent praying him to forbid the granting of licences authorising the importation of foreign linens into Great Britain. He had made a rough draught of a petition which he would submit to the meeting for their approbation or amendment.

Here the petition was read as follows:

TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS GEORGE, PRINCE REGENT.

" May it please your Royal Highness,

" We, the linen-merchants of the City and County of Londonderry, beg leave humbly to approach your Royal Highness, and to request you may take into your most serious consideration, the resolution of the Board of Trade, to grant licences to

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import from France, or her dependencies, linens, cambrics, and linen-yarn.

" Considering the favourable sentiments which your Royal Highness has been ever known to entertain and express towards this part of the United Kingdom, for which we feel the warmest gratitude, we humbly, yet confidently, hope we shall not petition in vain.

" Upon former occasions, we have experienced great injury to our linen manufacture from the introduction of that of our enemies into the United Kingdom; for although they are imported for exportation, they ultimately reach the markets that would otherwise be supplied by us.

" The linen-manufacture is nearly the sole support of the working part of the population of the North of Ireland. Of what extent and importance it is, your Royal Highness will judge from the following facts, viz.—

" That from 40 to 50,000 hogsheads of flaxseed are annually imported for sowing, which produce from 29 to 35,000 tons of flax, in the manufacture of which upwards of one million of the inhabitants are employed, two thirds of whom are women and children, who have no other possible means of subsistence.

" The Northern parts of Ireland seldom produce food sufficient for the inhabitants. The last harvest was not productive, the usual food of the poor is exorbitantly high, and the present posture of affairs leaves little ground to expect the usual supplies on such occasions. At any time, such a shock to our manufacture must be productive of serious injury; but, from the above combination of circumstances, it must, at the present time, be peculiarly calamitous.

" The misunderstanding which unhappily at present subsists between the government of your Royal Highness and that of America, deprives us of the great foreign markets for our manufacture. This is now felt with peculiar severity, from the heavily accumulated stock on hand—an evil which must bestill farther increased by the introduction of foreign linens in our markets; and this too, at a time when the trade is already so much depressed, that the women employed in spinning cannot earn more than from one shilling to one shilling and six pence per week, a sum too small for their support, even with the most rigorous economy. If, by want of employment, they shall be deprived of even this scanty means of subsistence, how afflative must be the inevitable consequences.

" Until lately we were but little burthened with poor: the charge of their maintenance is now felt as a heavy addition to our other burthens. With the utmost concern, we must remark the great emigration of wealthy inhabitants and industrious manufacturers. Should our present difficulties be still farther increased, the removal of still greater numbers must be expected, so as to leave behind few of the industrious class who may be able to procure a passage to America.

" We would, humbly submit to your Royal Highness, that we cannot but contemplate any further depression of our trade with the greatest alarm and the most painful anxiety, apprehensive as we are, least at a time when the subject is labouring under a load of taxes, it may tend to create in this hitherto peaceable and industrious county an irritation which already unhappily prevails to a great extent in many parts of the United Kingdom; and while we are constrained to express ourselves in this manner, we hope your Royal Highness will feel that our language is dictated by the most faithful sense of duty and respect for your Royal Highness' person and dignity, and the most sincere regard for the interests of the Empire; and though we cannot conceal the lively interest we take in this subject, we have been anxious to avoid an exaggerated statement, or such as might tend to agitate the public mind and embarrass the arrangements of your Royal Highness's Government.

" We, therefore, humbly implore your Royal Highness, that it may please you to suggest to your Ministers the necessity of abstaining from a measure so evidently calculated to destroy the staple manufacture of the country, under a full conviction that nothing can more effectually contribute to the happiness and maintain the tranquillity of so considerable a portion of your Royal Highness' affectionate subjects."

Mr. John Boyle said that there could be but one opinion as to the prayer of the Petition; but he disapproved of the introduction of any extraneous matter, particularly if tending to serve party purposes. On this ground he objected to the paragraphs which spoke of oppressive taxes, of irritation and dissatisfaction, besides there were no grounds whatever for such assertions, as neither irritation nor dissatisfaction existed among the class of men for whom we were more immediately interesting ourselves. There was not a more orderly, peaceable, and content-

ed body of people on the face of the earth than the Weavers of the North of Ireland; and, however others might feel the taxes, they did not materially feel them.

Mr. Sheriff Kennedy said, that if either irritation or dissatisfaction prevailed in this part of the country, it would have been the duty of the Magistrates to have acquainted the Government of it; but he would confidently assert that the only cause of dissatisfaction among the poorer classes, at present, was the high price of provisions which the weavers of this neighbourhood had too much good sense to attribute to any measure of Government. He was decidedly of opinion, that the latter part of the Petition ought to be omitted, as unfounded and irrelevant to the question.

The petition was then submitted to a committee of five, who modified the objectionable paragraphs, but not so as to meet the universal approbation of the Linen Merchants, and we understand that some of them have refused to sign it in consequence.

RIOTS AT MANCHESTER.

A number of Gentlemen of Manchester, last week, signed the following requisition to the Boroughreeve and high constables.

"We whose names are hereunto subscribed, request you will convene a public meeting of the town of Manchester, Salford, and the neighbourhood, to prepare a dutiful address to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, expressive of the strongest assurances of our attachment to his Royal Person, and of our ardent zeal for the support of his government."

The Boroughreeve accordingly appointed a meeting for that purpose, on Wednesday last, when the following disturbances were the consequence:—

Manchester, April 8, 1812.

"The apprehensions and fears which many people entertained respecting the assembly of the populace has this day been realized. It seems that the proprietors of the Exchange building prudently declined lending their room for the intended purpose of meeting this day. The Requisitionists applied for a room at the Bull's Head, but there they were disappointed. By ten o'clock this morning, or soon after, a great concourse of people were assembled, till the central part of the town was quite occupied with people, chiefly weavers from the country round. As soon as a sufficient

number of them were assembled, they forced their way into the Exchange Room, and turned out all the Gentlemen who were present, and soon proceeded to acts of violence, destroying all the papers, maps and books they could meet with; they also broke the chairs, tables, windows, and every thing valuable, not only in that room, but in the room where the Gentlemen were to have met, and it is said, they would have set fire to that beautiful building, had not the military arrived very opportunely to dislodge them. The soldiers are now in possession of the building, but crowds of people still remain, and I fear as night approaches, we shall have more outrages committed."

The following most inflammatory Posting Bill was put up all over the town, which served to irritate the people to the highest degree, as they saw that the meeting was intended to revive the spirit of religious intolerance.

"ENGLAND EXPECTS EVERY MAN TO DO HIS DUTY !!!

"Should you not this day give your support to the Prince Regent, you may, in a very short time, expect a revival of the days of Bloody Queen Mary, when your ancestors were tied to a stake, and burnt alive. The active opposers of the present government have pledged themselves to sanction the Popish Religion, and as Bonaparte is the head of that religion, your universal cry should be

"NO POPE BONAPARTE."

On the other side there appeared the following bill:—

TO THE INHABITANTS OF MANCHESTER AND SALFORD.

"Fellow Townsmen,—A public meeting is convened for the purpose of expressing the strongest assurances of attachment to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and the most ardent zeal in support of his government.

"This is a measure of party, and introduced at a time when you are suffering under distress and wretchedness unexampled in its extent and pressure, and anticipating its incalculable increase; when every rank of society, from the highest order in the state, to the meanest of the labouring poor is viewing with agony the impending and complicated dangers, which threaten our very existence as an independent Nation. Of the motives of those with whom the meeting originated, it is unnecessary to speak: but I address you from the so-

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lema conviction, that by the success of the contemplated measure, not only your worldly interests, &c., would be laid prostrate—would be delivered bound for sacrifice into the hands of the Minister, and be immolated by him at the foot of the throne—that the smoke of the offering might thicken the vapours of delusion, which, fatally for you, already surround it. This, however, will not be. I have no such melancholy anticipation. I look forward to the defeat of the attempt with confidence. My hopes in this are strong, for the object of them is good. You feel the dishonour prepared for you, and will impressively condemn the sophistry and cant with which it may be recommended.

“ Fellow Townsmen!—With a national character of wisdom and magnanimity; with a form of government calculated for comfort, protection, and happiness; with numbers of public men of undoubted talents and virtue; and with many and great resources, you behold your country sunk in reputation, degraded in rank, and pursuing those measures which will inevitably terminate in irremediable destruction and misery. The public mind is no longer ignorant of the cause. The canker-worm of state, in piercing our feelings with agony, has at once roused us from a general and unaccountable indifference, and fortunately too, opened a passage for the light. Darkness is now removed from the face of the deep. The rays which shot through the perforations of corruption, have dissipated the clouds that obscured it. We now discern the dangers that surround us, and the misconduct that has produced them. We feel the necessity of concentrating our energies to repel the one, and protest against the other. The love and reverence we bear our country, and its laws, demand, on this occasion, a display of that unconquerable perseverance, which an exalted sense of duty inspires and animates. My Fellow townsmen, if you are sensible of this duty, you will attend the meeting on the 8th of April, and convert the Resolutions that will be submitted to you into a constitutional call upon the government, to concede to the general wish and interests of the country, by renouncing those fatal principles that have been so pregnant with calamity.

“ I have confidence in your wisdom, honour, and firmness; and trust that your conduct, calmly co-operating with the regenerating sense and spirit of the people,

will restore this afflicted nation to its natural soundness and vigour.

“ A WARNING VOICE.”

“ Manchester, 2d April, 1812.”

**MEETING FOR THE RELIEF OF THE POOR
AT LISBURN.**

In consequence of the high prices of provisions, a requisition was presented to the Seneschal of the town of Lisburn, to call a meeting to consider of presenting a petition to the Lord Lieutenant, to stop distillation, and also of the best mode of aiding the poor in the present season of difficulty. A meeting was accordingly held on the 25th inst.; and it appearing from the late proceedings in Parliament, that the distilleries are likely to be stopped, and therefore no need to petition, a committee was appointed to open a kitchen for the dressing and sale of Rice, and also for soup, provided the latter plan should be hereafter found necessary, from the additional pressure of the times. Rice affords a cheap nutritious article of food, if it be properly dressed, but if it were sold to the poor in a whole state, much of the benefits would be lost, from their want of skill to use it in the most economical and productive manner. Rice-meat has been found very serviceable in Liverpool during the present season, where it has been brought much into use by the committee established for the aid of the poor, and from them the plan is borrowed. The manner of preparing it has already been given in this magazine. One pound of rice to one gallon of *boiling* water, boiled over a slow fire, till all the water is absorbed, produces about 6lbs. of good food, which at the present price of rice, can be sold to the poor at 1d. per lb. By promoting the use of Rice, an article seldom used by the poor, an addition is made to the stock of provisions of the country, and the most effectual guard is obtained against the dangers of scarcity.

Considerable exertions are now making in Newry, for the relief of the poor, at this severe time. Large sums have been subscribed, to buy meal and flax to be sold out at a reduced price, in quantity according to the number of the family, to be ascertained by visitors appointed to examine into the state of the poor. The clergymen of the town have been very active on this occasion.

Death—Seldom have christian faith and fortitude so completely triumphed over the terrors of the irresistible messenger, though the conflict was very painful arising from an unconquerable obstruction in his bowels, by which Dr. James Prossor departed from life the 3rd inst. he sustained this severe disease with exemplary patience, and the resignation that attends well-founded hope : the Doctor had under providence withheld from youth repeated attacks of Pulmonary consumption, by habits regular, and abstemious, correspondent to the plan laid down in his inaugural dissertation, *de sanitate tuenda*, published at Edinburgh in 1777, these habits while they restrained sensual gratification, preserved his head clear, his mind untrammeled, and his animal spirits in tranquil even flow,

Integer vitæ scelerisque purus,
Non eget Mauri jaculis, nec arcu.

An intimate acquaintance for 35 years, enables the writer of this tribute to lament in him the loss of a profitable associate, of undeviating integrity, steady principles, and enlarged intellect : inferior to none, he deservedly held high rank in his profession ; as a medical practitioner he enjoyed that rank in the confidence of the first class in his own, and the neighbouring counties, for many years ; evincing in his deportment the distance of an independent mind, resting on its own resources, and feeling conscious that virtue and talent give pre-eminence, yet in the calm and social circle he would pour forth the riches of a mind well stored with various learning. She who poignantly feels bereft of a tender husband of such a character can attest the fidelity of this record, and in her mourning ask, when did the grave enjoin its stillness upon a more upright man.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT. *From March 20, to April 20, 1812*

A favourable change in the weather having taken place about the beginning of this month, a good deal of the spring corn has been sown, although much is yet to be done in some of the late districts, especially in those where the ploughing had not been put forward in proper time.

The prevalence of cold easterly winds, accompanied by frost at night, has retarded vegetation so much, that neither the corn nor grass are likely to make a progress equal to what ought to be expected at so advanced a period of the season ; and unless the succeeding summer proves favourable for the ripening of the crops there is very little reason to expect an early harvest.

Grain of every kind has considerably advanced in price ; oat-meal has been sold so high as 38s. per hundred weight of 120lbs. ; and potatoes bring from 9d. to 12d. per stone, in various parts of the country.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

ENGLAND at the present moment exhibits a most distressing appearance. Dearth of provisions, attended with fears of actual scarcity presses severely on the manufacturing classes of the community, while badness of trade leaves them less able to struggle with the difficulties. If the war has not directly produced the high prices of all the necessary articles of food, it has materially contributed, by the waste attendant on the supplies of armies on foreign services, and still more by the injudicious system of commercial warfare introduced by the orders in council, interrupting the free intercourse, which would facilitate the introduction of provisions from the continent of Europe, and more especially from the United States of North America. The British orders in council have been far more efficacious in obstructing these supplies, than the hostile decrees of France, and therefore the evils of interrupted commerce are fairly attributable to the impolicy of our rulers. In addition to the effects produced by the war to lessen the stock of provisions, the country is rendered less able to bear the great advance of prices by the bad trade, which may clearly be traced to the system of the orders in council. The trade of Britain excited to the highest pitch, by the investiture of large capitals, the great advantages arising from the improvements in machinery by the abridgment of labour, and the very extensive foreign mercantile connections, has been paralyzed by the manner of carrying